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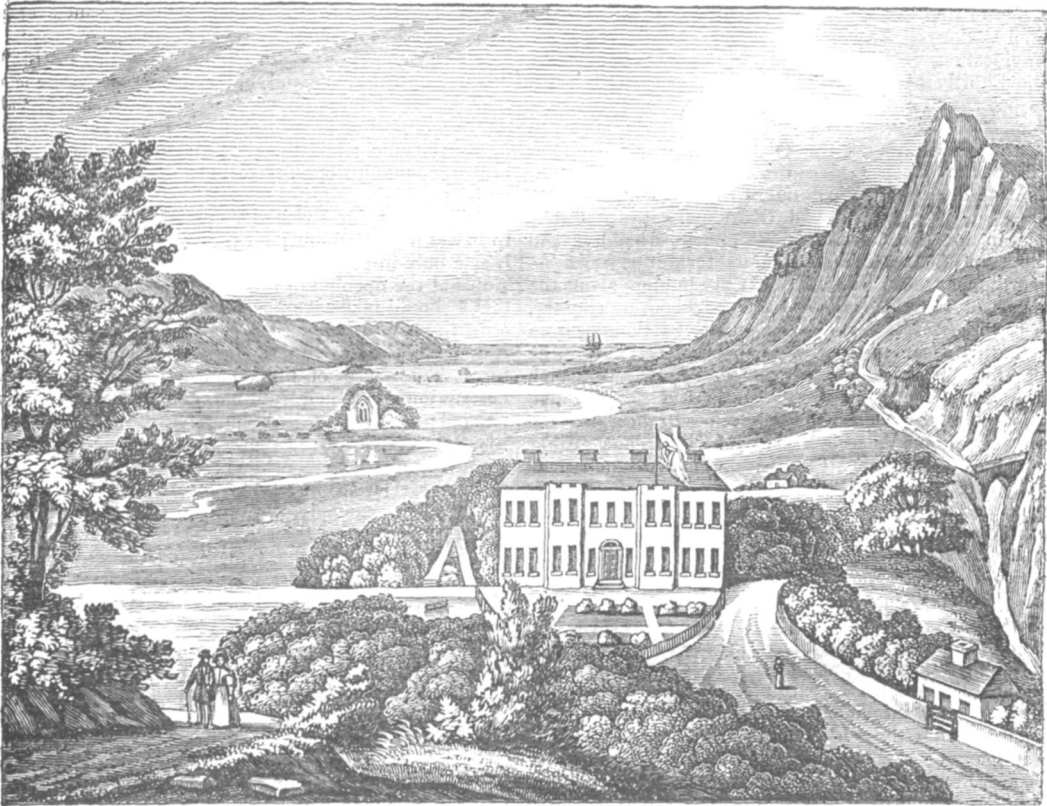
THE
DUBLIN PENNY JOURNAL

CONDUCTED BY P. DIXON HARDY, M.R.I.A.

Vol. IV.

MARCH 12, 1836.

No. 193



DERRYNANE ABBEY, COUNTY OF KERRY, THE RESIDENCE OF DANIEL O'CONNELL, ESQ. M. P.

On looking over several volumes having reference to the history and statistics of the County of Kerry, in which the foregoing building is situated, the following, from "Smith's Kerry," published in the year 1756, is the only record of the place we have been able to discover:—

Speaking of the parish in which Mr. O'Connell's residence is situated, Mr. Smith says, "At Aghamore, towards the western extremity of the parish, are the remains of a small abbey of canons regular of St. Austin, founded by the monks of St. Finbar, near Cork in the seventh century. It is situated in a small island near the mouth of the river of Kenmare, having its walls so beaten by the sea, that they will soon be entirely demolished. About a league to the S. W. of this island, which is at low water joined to the shore, there are two islands called Scariff and Dinish; the former is a high mountain in the sea, and hath one family on it, who take care of some cows, and make a considerable quantity of butter; on the top of the highest ground in the island, is a ruined hermitage. These islands, with the continent, are farmed from the Earl of Cork and Orrery by Mr. Daniel Connell, who has on a part of the said land, named Derrynane, built a good house, and made other improvements, the only plantation hereabouts."

From a recent traveller, the late Mr. H. D. Inglis, who made the tour of Ireland in 1834, we copy the following particulars relative to the district in which Derrynane Abbey is situated:—"My course now lay through the wilds of Kerry; and first, to Cahir-siveen, and Valentia Island; which, with the exception of the little islands called the Blaskets, is the nearest point of Ireland to the

coast of America. The distance from Killarney to Cahir-siveen, which, on the maps, is generally marked Cahir, is about forty English miles, and the road is altogether a very interesting one; both on account of the scenery through which the traveller passes, and on account of the peculiarities that attach to the people of these parts, which are said to have been colonised by Spanish settlers, and which long held a close intercourse with the Peninsula.

* * * Nothing can be finer than the road skirting the sea, after leaving Lord Headly's property. In the magnificence of its mountain and sea views, it is little inferior to any of the celebrated roads which have been constructed along the shores of the Mediterranean; and is every way superior to the road from Bangor to Conway, in North Wales. I am sorry I cannot say so much for the population and their dwellings. I never passed more wretched cabins, than on some part of this road. Some of the worst of these are situated on the property of Lord Lansdowne, but are held under his lordship by middle-men.

"I was now in O'Connell's country: here was the property of Daniel O'Connell, Esq. or the Liberator, as the people called him; there, the property of Charles O'Connell, Esq.; and there again, the property of another O'Connell: but the greater part of the O'Connell property—almost all that of the O'Connell, is held under head landlords; and he, is only an extensive middle-man. Near to Cahir-siveen is the birth-place of the great agitator. It is a ruined house, situated in a hollow near to the road; and when I reached the spot, the driver of the car pulled up, and inquired whether I would like to visit

the house. But the driver of my car, was not a native of these parts; for he it known to the reader, that O'Connell is less popular in his own country than he is elsewhere. If you ask an innkeeper, or an innkeeper's wife, any where in O'Connell's district, what sort of a man there landlord is? 'Och, and sure he's the best o' landlords!—he takes the childher by the hand, and he wouldn't be over proud to drink tay with the landlady.' But if you step into a cabin, the holder of which owns Daniel O'Connell, Esq. as his landlord, and if you ask the same question, he'll scratch his head, and say little any way. Shortly before I visited Cahir-siveen, there was a road presentation in that neighbourhood, and the rate payers, who have now a vote in these matters, refused at first to pass it, unless the O'Connells would pay two-thirds of the expense; because, said they, 'the O'Connells have lived long enough out of road presentations!'

* * * I reached O'Connell's town, Cahir-siveen, in time for an excellent fish dinner of haddock and mullet; and the three or four hours that intervened between dinner and bed time, I spent in rambling about the environs of the village, and in the neighbouring country. The town is said to be rather improving; though, from its situation, I cannot think the improvement can ever be great; for it lies within a very dangerous navigation, high up the stream that there forms an inlet of the sea; and in strong westerly winds, the only safe entrance, between the mainland and Valentia Island, is all but inaccessible.

"The country around Cahir-siveen is extremely wild, and but very partially reclaimed; and the condition of the people far from being comfortable. I visited several wretched cabins, and found the inmates paying exorbitant rents. Land is not let here by the acre; but by the quantity of land fit to support a cow. I found one man owning land for six cows, paying at the rate of 50s. per cow; and at that time, the price of butter was such, that not more than 40s. could be got for the produce of each cow. Others I found paying in precisely the same proportion. The greater industry of the people—and, I may add, the greater intelligence universal among the Kerry peasantry—help them with their indifferent bargains. I saw in many of their cabins beautiful examples of industry—every branch of a family occupied in doing something useful; and I did not address one individual, from whom I did not receive answers, that would have done credit to persons of any education; and yet, on asking one individual who had conversed with me readily and sensibly upon many subjects, how many weeks there were in a month—I was answered, that there were two. Nature has done much for these people—education little."

Such are the observations made by Mr. Inglis, a man who has been described as an individual of ultra-liberal sentiments, an advocate for poor-rates, and an enemy to the tithe system, and whose observations on these points have been quoted in the House of Commons.

THE ISLAND OF VALENTIA.

As this island is at present among the number of places in competition for the honour of being the centre point, at which the railroad through this kingdom, shall terminate, and from which the line of steam packets to the western world, are to start, the following description, with a bird's-eye view of the entire county, we presume to think will not be deemed altogether void of interest.

Mr. Smith thus describes it—"The island of Valentia is about five miles long, and forms one side of a fine harbour, the sea running between it and the main, like a river, which is in most places about half a mile broad, and of a sufficient depth for vessels to sail through at any time of the tide. Cromwell had forts erected on both ends of this island, which have been neglected since his time. Vessels may enter into the harbour at either end, and sail

† The greater number of the respectable farmers in this district of country, it is said, originally made their money by trading in various matters saved from the wrecks of vessels driven in from time to time along the coast. Mr. Connell, the father or grandfather of Daniel O'Connell, Esq. kept a shop, in which articles of the kind alluded to were bought and sold.

quite round the island. It was in Queen Anne's wars much frequented by French privateers, who, by keeping a watch on the island, lay very secure; for if any ship of war came to this place, the sentinel gave notice to what end of the harbour she directed her course, and then the privateer sailed directly out at the other, and thereby escaped; for which reason, a small fort or block-house seems to be as necessary here at present, as in the Protector's days. The island is a fertile tract, and esteemed the granary of the country."

"The views about Cahir-siveen," says Mr. Inglis, "are interesting—of a wild and solitary character. The mountains jut into the sea on every side; the island of Valentia lies opposite, separated from the main land by a narrow channel; and the small town, enclosed among the brown mountain slopes, seems like a place at the world's end.

"The next day I visited Valentia Island: but my visit to it was a hurried one; for the navigation of Dingle Bay is safe only in fine weather; and being anxious to reach Ennis at the opening of the Clare assizes, it was necessary that I should take advantage of the favourable weather, to cross the bay to Dingle. A great part of Valentia Island is under tillage; and there is a considerable range of pasture. The houses of the tenants, I found of a superior description; but their internal comforts scarcely corresponded; for land is high let. Nearly all, if not all the island, belongs to the Knight of Kerry, who is much respected in this neighbourhood; and who has done considerable service to the place—not so much by outlay of money, as by example, in various modes of improvement. The slate quarry on the island is extensive and valuable, and is at present in the Knight of Kerry's own hands; and is worked for export. It is used for flagging, for fish slabs, and for many purposes to which marble has been usually applied; and finds a ready market in England. Several good houses are scattered over Valentia Island, besides those of the farmers. The house of the knight is situated near to the sea, on an eminence, on the east side of the island, and near to a little glen, and small rivulet.

"I returned from Valentia Island to Cahir-siveen, just in time to save the tide, and embarked in a heavy fishing boat, which was about to return to Dingle. With a smart breeze the voyage may be accomplished in two hours, but I had no such good fortune. There was scarcely a breath of wind, and we were forced to row the whole way; sometimes, indeed, profiting by the brief course of a passing breeze to hoist our sail; but losing more than we gained, by the suspension of rowing. This must, indeed, be a frightful navigation, with a heavy rolling sea before an Atlantic north-wester; and, being only desirous of reaching Dingle before night-fall, I did not regret the slowness of our progress, and the tranquillity of the sea, which encouraged a more leisurely observation of the fine scenery that lay on every side. The tide did not permit us to steer directly for Dingle; and, accordingly, we made the opposite shore, considerably to the west, and then rowed under the rocks, eastward, passing in succession, Ventry Harbour, numerous bold headlands, and singularly formed rocks, and many curious sea-worn caves, never visited but by the sea-fowl, that are congregated in thousands along this coast—riding on the wave, covering the rocks, and wheeling on the sides of the cliffs. I noticed many varieties of sea-fowl: some were of the purest white; some were white all but the tips of the wings; and some were speckle-bodied, with red feet and bills."

DESCRIPTION OF THE COUNTY OF KERRY.

With the exception of that portion of it in the immediate vicinity of the Lakes of Killarney, and the neighbourhood of Tralee, the County of Kerry may be said to be, even at the present day, a *terra incognita* to a great proportion of the inhabitants of Ireland; and yet it can boast of some of the wildest, most romantic, picturesque, and diversified scenery, to be met with in any portion of our island. In speaking of Blackstones, a small village in the neighbourhood of Mr. O'Connell's residence, Mr. Smith, to whose History of Kerry we have already referred, observes—"It is hardly possible to meet with more romantic prospects any where, than in these parts; the

rocks are extremely high and irregular, appearing, in many points of view, like the prodigious ruin of a great city. Every half mile shifts the scenery, affording a pleasing novelty, that strikes the traveller with astonishment at the rude kind of magnificence which appears in these stupendous works of nature. Among the naked rocks there is plenty of evergreens, as yew, holly, and arbutus, with numberless cascades in winter, which form a very pleasing landscape. On the top of one of these hills, is a curious hermitage or cell, hewn out of the solid rock. This cell is named St. Crohan's, who is the patron saint of the parish of Kiltroghan. The intelligent among the antiquarians here, say that in this place the celebrated St. Kieran, who was the first bishop of Saigar, now a part of Ossory, and who, according to Archbishop Usher, was born in the island of Cape Clear, composed his rule for monks—although others say it was in an adjacent grotto. Be this as it may, the stalactical exudations of the above-mentioned cell are held in great estimation by the country people, who carefully preserve them, as imagining them to have many virtues in them, from the supposed sanctity of the place they grow in."

The northern part of the County of Kerry, lying towards the Shannon, is comparatively low, having a fall or inclination towards the river Gale or Cashen; it is now in a very unprofitable condition, although well adapted for conversion into a good tillage country. The central district is an upland country, rising gradually into the boundary between Limerick and Cork, the upper stratum of which is an indurated clay-shiver, covering thin beds of culm, which, in the eastern extremity of the range, are found alternating with a good coal blende, similar to that of Kilkenny. This field is flanked by extensive beds of secondary limestone. The vales of the central district consist of an extensive and improvable bog, having a drainage southward towards Dingle Bay, and eastward by the Blackwater, towards Cork. The southern district is formed of an extensive and lofty mountain chain, commencing on the eastern side of Dingle Bay, and continuing, with little interruption, along the south side of the lakes of Killarney, and of the river Blackwater, as far as the county of Waterford. The vales between these hills are generally extensive bog fields, capable of reclamation, and peculiarly well situated for exportation of this produce, though they now lie totally waste. The prevailing and component rock of this mountain range is clay slate, the strata of which are so highly inclined, that they are easily decomposable by the weather; and this decomposition forms an adhesive loam well suited to the reception of grain crops. This clay slate has also been quarried for roofing in some places; but the convenience of export has hitherto confined the workings to Cahir, Begnish, and Valentia.

The culm and stone coal of Kerry are yet but imperfectly explored, and the waste lands and bog, exceeding 200,000 acres, remain in the same unoccupied, unimproved, and deplorable condition in which they were found by the bog commissioners in the year 1814. The barony of Glanorough is particularly oppressed by poverty, scarcely one plough existing within that whole district, for which spade labour is necessarily substituted. Besides the coal and culm already mentioned, copper is found in considerable quantities in the Kerry mountains, occurring chiefly in the limestone district. It occurs on both sides of the river Kenmare, but on the south side is found in slate. On Ross Island, on the beautiful Lake of Killarney, one of the richest mines of ruby copper ore in Ireland is now at full work: but this is also in the limestone region; and another vein, not now worked, occurs in the same matrix, near to the picturesque ruin of Mucruss Abbey, on the same lake.

The roads, or rather the want of them, have hitherto militated against the improvement of the Kerry peasants; but the patronage and assistance of government, as well as the exertions of the fishery board, have succeeded in opening the wildest districts of a very retired country, by lines of road skilfully laid down and ably executed. A mail-coach line is now completed from Limerick city, by Listowel and Tralee, to Dingle. Another line is finished

from Limerick to Valentia, by Rathkeale, Abbyeale, Castle-island, and Cahir: and a most necessary, as well as most romantic road, (particularly distinguished for its workmanlike execution, and its systematic and durable conformation,) connects the towns of Killarney and Kenmare, skirting the beautiful lakes of Killarney, which were hitherto concealed from all but navigators of their surface, and affording a sublime view of their picturesque scenery. How great are the benefits that in all likelihood will follow from these improvements, may easily be imagined from the incalculable advantage already derived to the peasantry, whose only staple is live cattle or butter, the latter of which was formerly carried in panniers, on horseback, for distances exceeding fifty miles.

The rivers of this country do not afford any advantage as to inland navigation. The Kenmare is navigable for some miles, but this may be called an arm of the sea. The other rivers are the Blackwater, the Teale, Gale, Cashin, Maing, Lea, Flesk, Laune, Carrin, Fartin, Inny, and Roughty. The Flesk falls into the Lower Lake of Killarney, the waters of which are discharged into the sea by the Laune. The principal towns are Tralee, the assizes town, Dingle, Killarney, Nedeon or Kenmare, Castle-island, Sixnaw, Listowell, and Milltown.

The line of sea-coast is very extensive, and much indented: the chief islets and bays are those of Tralee, Brandon, Dingle, Valentia, Ballineskelligs, and Kenmare. The last, twenty miles in length, is capacious and safe, and Valentia (a name given by the Spaniards) is one of the safest in Ireland. It was here that the American and Colonial Steam Navigation Company proposed to establish a packet station, and vessels to ply regularly between this place and Nova Scotia. The coast, which is rather bold, is rendered dangerous by the great number of islands and rocks, above seventy, on two of the most conspicuous of which, the Skelligs, light-houses are now erected. In the limestone caves on the sea-shore, near to Dingle, Kerry Head, and many other places, very beautiful crystals, clear and hard, are often found. These, called Kerry stones and Irish diamonds, are deservedly esteemed by lapidaries. A few amethysts have also been detected, and some valuable pearls have been raised from the lakes and rivers of the county.

Cider was formerly made here in large quantities from the Cackigay apple, and obtained both a good price and estimation: but this traffic is now much neglected; and another species of apple, equally valued, called the Kerry pippin, is now most difficult to be procured.

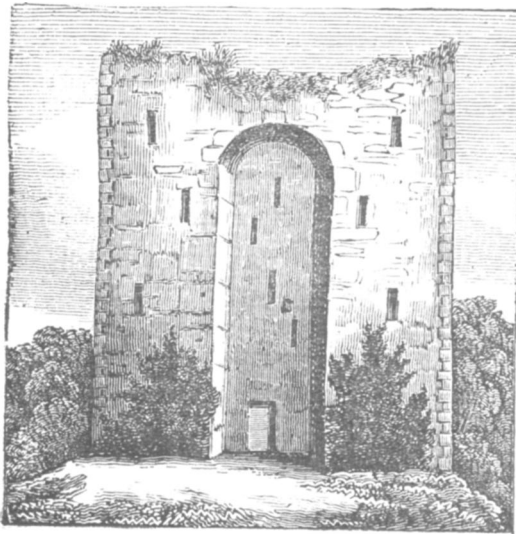
ANCIENT MANNER OF RECEIVING THE JUDGES OF ASSIZE.

The following description of the reception of the judges of assize, in the year 1752, by the Hon. John Fitzmaurice, afterwards Earl of Shelburne, at that time the high sheriff of the County of Kerry, will afford some idea of the way in which matters of this kind were managed in the times to which the chronicler (Smith) refers:—

"When his lordship was high sheriff of this county in 1752, he received the judges of assize, at the bounds of the county, in a most magnificent and splendid manner, the particulars of which are as follow: two running footmen led the way, being clothed in white, with their black caps dressed with red ribbons, and red sashes with deep fringes; four grooms leading four stately horses with their caparisons, their manes and tails dressed with roses of red ribbons; a page in scarlet laced with silver, bearing the sheriff's white rod; the high sheriff in scarlet, his sword hanging in a broad shoulder belt of crimson velvet, covered with silver lace, mounted on a very beautiful stone-horse, having a Turkish bridle with reins of green silk intermixed with gold, the caps and housings of green velvet, that was almost covered with gold lace, and bordered with a deep gold fringe; two trumpets in green, profusely laced with silver; twelve livery men in the colours of the family, mounted on black horses, from £20 to £40 price, with long tails, which, as well as their manes, were decked with roses of red ribbons, the caps and housings having a centaur in brass, which is the crest of the Fitzmaurices; they had short horseman's wigs of one cut, with gold-laced hats, their back-swords hung in

broad buff belts—their cravats, or stocks, were black, fastened with two large gilt buttons behind—each had a brace of pistols and a bright carabine hanging in a basket on his right side, with a stopper in the muzzle, of red mixed with white, that looked not unlike a tulip—his riding coat, with a scarlet cape and gilt buttons, was rolled up behind him; the Earl of Kerry's gentleman of the horse, single, mounted on a very fine black horse; the steward, waiting gentleman, and other domestics of Lord Kerry. The cavalcade were all of the earl's own family, and mounted out of his own stable to the number of thirty-five. After these followed the gentlemen of the county, who were very numerous, with about twenty led horses, with field-cloaths, attending them. But the day proved very unfavourable, and all this pomp and gallantry of equipage was forced to march under a continued rain to Listowel, where the high sheriff had prepared a splendid entertainment of one hundred and twenty dishes, to regale the judges and gentlemen after their fatigues; which it seems they greatly wanted, for the roads were so heavy and deep by reason of the excessive rain, that the judges were forced to leave their coaches, and betake themselves to their saddle-horses. But this repast was short, for tidings being brought that the river Feal was swelling apace, they soon removed in order to pass over it while it was fordable."

LISTOWEL.

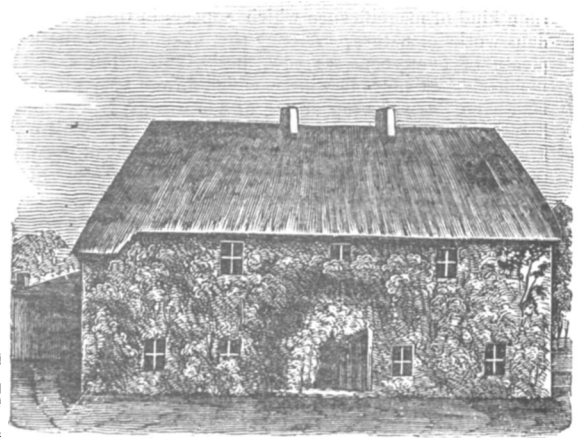


Desmond Castle.

Listowel, a market-town in the County of Kerry, one hundred and thirty-one miles from the metropolis, contains a few good houses, but, like most of our small towns, a large number of poor cabins. There is a tolerably neat church, but on an ill-chosen site, being in the centre of the market-square, where also is a handsome school-house, and a new chapel. On one side of this square is a portion of the front of an old castle, said to have belonged to the family of Desmond; excepting its antiquity, there is little interesting in its appearance, but the extraordinary elevation of the arch, as you will perceive from the accompanying sketch. A considerable part of this ruin, as I am informed, has lately been taken away to build a mill, and much of its interesting character destroyed.

Near to this town is the handsome demesne of the Knight of Kerry, through which runs the Cushin river, discharging its waters into the Atlantic, or mouth of the Shannon. The house, of which I also enclose a sketch, (more on account of the celebrity of the owner, than for its appearance,) is seldom occupied, and exhibits nothing remarkable, being partly slated and partly thatched. The entrance is, however, rather novel, presenting the appear-

ance of a cottage, fronted with a profusion of cydamen and rose-trees.



Cottage Front to the Knight of Kerry's Residence.

Near to the house is the ruin of an old castle, which, to the credit of the proprietor, has been allowed to remain undisturbed by any hand but that of time. In the year 1600, Listowel castle, the last and only one that held out for Lord Kerry against the Lord President, was besieged by Sir Charles Wilmot. As a chamber was preparing to place the powder in a mine to blow up the castle, a spring of water gushed out in such abundance, that he was obliged to begin a new work, which he carried under-ground to the midst of a vault in the castle. The work being perceived by the garrison, they called out for mercy; but he would hear of no other terms but their surrendering at discretion. The ward, being eighteen men, submitted on their knees, but the women and children were suffered to depart. Nine of the English having been shot during the siege, he presently caused the same number of prisoners to be hanged; and by the president's order, the residue were soon after executed, as they had all of them been under protection; except an Irish priest, named Sir Dermot Mac-Brodie, who was pardoned for the following reason:—It happened that upon surrendering the castle, the Lord Kerry's eldest son, then but five years old, was carried away by an old woman, almost naked, and besmeared with dirt. Wilmot detached a party in search of him, who returned without finding the child, but the priest proposed, if Sir Charles would spare his life and that of the child, to discover where he was: which being granted, he went with a captain's guard to a thick wood, six miles from the castle, which was almost impassable, where, in a hollow cave, they found the old woman and the child, whom they brought to Sir Charles, who sent both the priest and the child to the Lord President.

THE DEMON NAILER.

A LEGEND OF THE SOUTH.

It was on a fine day of June in some old year, of which chronology has taken no note, that a stranger was seen to proceed with a light and lengthy stride along the rough pavement of that toilsome street which leads from Blackpool to the North-gate bridge of the city of Cork. In this most populous outlet of the city, a passenger attracts very little attention, unless his outward bearing entitle him to especial notice, but this traveller was not one whom a Blackpool lounge would pass with unregarding eye. His limbs would appear of massive size, were it not for his elastic tread, his uncommon tallness, and noble and commanding figure. The idle gossips that sat in groups on the rough footway, nursing their half-naked urchins, or sending the cutting jibe after some "nymph of quality," whom the industry of her father had elevated to the enviable splendour of a jaunting-car, shrunk with instinctive dread, as the passing glance of the traveller cast its piercing regards among them, and the boys abandoned the footway with their taws and slashing tops at his approach,